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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hikaru FUKUYAMA et al.

Attn: **BOX PCT**

Serial No. 09/890,021

Docket No. 2001_0990A

Filed July 27, 2001

PUNCH FOR PREPARING TABLETS
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/00450
Filed January 27, 2000]

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. .

1a. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted
after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action
or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the
application, and thus:

(1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:
after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which
otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and
thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was
first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign
application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was
cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign
application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making
reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than
three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or
abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

Reference AO is discussed on page 6, lines 8-13 of the specification. References AP and AQ are discussed on page 2, line 16 and the end of the English translation of Reference AO.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

- [] a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
- [] a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- [] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- [] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- [] the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Hikaru FUKUYAMA et al.

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January 3, 2002

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CURE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FILING OF THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: January 3, 2002

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2001_0990ASERIAL NO.
09/890,021APPLICANT
Hikaru FUKUYAMA et al.FILING DATE
July 27, 2001

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|-------------------|----|--------------------------------|------|------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| | AA | O P E JCITY | | | | | |
| | AB | JAN 03 2002 | | | | | |
| | AC | U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE | | | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
|--|----|-----------------|------|---------|-------|----------|--------------------|
| | AJ | | | | | | |
| | AK | | | | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | AO | M. Hitomi, "Hard Chromium Treatment Technology by the Sputtering Process/Characteristics and Effects of Chrome Dope-N", Kata Gijutsu, Vol. 8, No. 5, April 1993, pp. 70-78 with its English translation. |
| | AP | A. Aubert et al., "Hard Chrome and Molybdenum Coatings Produced by Physical Vapour Deposition", Thin Solid Films, 126, pp. 61-67, 1985. |
| | AQ | A. Aubert et al., "Hard Chrome Coatings Deposited by Physical Vapour Deposition", Thin Solid Films, 108, pp. 165-172, 1983. |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED